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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/824,350

04/15/2004

Nam Seon Cho

0465-1165PUS1

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10/02/2006

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EXAMINER

ING, MATTHEW W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/824,350

Applicant(s)

CHO, NAM SEON

Examiner

Matthew W. Ing

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

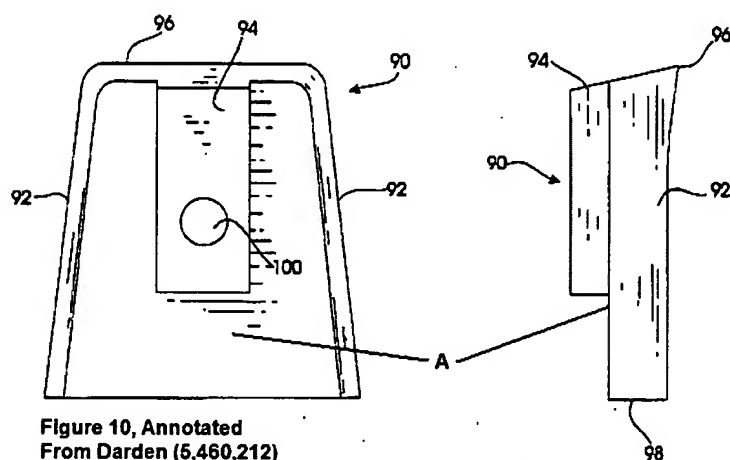
4. Claims 1 and 3-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by the applicant in Figures 1-3 of his application, in view of Darden (5,460,212) and Sueyoshi (2002/0152582).

5. The prior art of Figures 1-3 teaches the structure substantially as claimed above, including a refrigerator (1); a door (3) opening and closing said refrigerator, said door being a sliding door; a handle (4) located on a side of the door, said handle being located on a front side of the refrigerator; and a plurality of handle holders (5) each having an end fixed to the door and

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another end attached to the handle; said handle holders being located on each side of the handle, and being fixed to the door by at least two screws penetrating the handle holder.

6. The only difference between the admitted prior art of Figures 1-3 is that and the structure claimed by the applicant is that the admitted prior art fails to teach a groove, being formed on the door, for inserting the supporting member, wherein a depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member; and a supporting member provided on each of the handle holders and preventing damage from occurring on the handle holder; said supporting member being protruded downwards on a lower surface of the handle holder; said supporting member being located on a contacting surface between the handle holder and the door; said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder; said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder; said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated; said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated.



7. Sueyoshi, however, teaches a groove (12), being formed on the door between the surface of said door and a handle (9); said groove being used for inserting a supporting member (17).

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See Figure 2. Additionally, Darden teaches the shaping of a groove (84) to accommodate a supporting member (94), such that the depth of the groove is the same as a thickness of the supporting member (see Figures 1, 3, 9, and 10). Darden also teaches the inclusion of a supporting member (94) on an attachable structure (92) to be attached via screw to a larger structure (44), wherein the supporting member is protruded downwards on a lower surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above) of the attachable structure (92); said supporting member being located on a contacting surface (Item A – see Figure 10 Annotated, above; see also Figures 1 & 3 of Darden) between the attachable structure (92) and the larger structure (44); said supporting member having a width smaller than that of the handle holder (see Figures 1 & 3); said supporting member being integrated with the handle holder (see Figures 9 and 10); said supporting member being provided at a surrounding region of a hole through which the screws are penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9); said supporting member being provided on a lower surface of a surrounding region of a hole through which a screw closer to the handle is penetrated (see Figures 3 & 9).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the groove of Sueyoshi, and the supporting member and groove shape of Darden, into the handle holder and refrigerator door of the admitted prior art in order to provide a more secure connection between the handle-holder and door, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

Response to Arguments

9. The objections to the drawing and specification, and the rejections under 35 USC 112, are rendered moot by the applicant's amendments to the drawings, specification, and claims. As such, these objections and rejections are withdrawn.

10. In response to applicant's argument that Darden (5,460,212) and Sueyoshi (2002/0152582) are nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. In this case, both Sueyoshi and Darden are reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned. Also, the attachable structure (92) of Darden can be analogized to the handle holder of the admitted prior art, in that both are smaller structures being fixed via screws to larger structures; and that, in this light, Darden can be seen as merely teaching the inclusion of a supporting member on any generic attachable structure. The examiner also points out that, although the larger structure (44) of Darden cannot be easily analogized to any type of door, Sueyoshi, as mentioned above, teaches the inclusion of a groove upon a generic door for the purposes of accommodating a supporting member. The examiner also points out that the inclusion of the supporting member taught by Darden on the underside of handle holder of the admitted prior art would obviously have the beneficial side-effect effect of providing structural reinforcement to said handle-holder; and would obviously serve to lessen the probability of failure due to fatigue. The examiner further points out that it is well known in the art that thickening a structure increases its structural rigidity. Hence, the examiner concludes that the teachings of Darden and Sueyoshi *are* reasonably pertinent to the

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particular problem with which the applicant was concerned; and that as such, applicant's arguments to the contrary are not persuasive.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kawakami (2002/0093276) teaches a handle for a refrigerator door with a support member. Josserand (6,401,302), Du (6,672,867), Kubelka (1,652,018), Loffler (5,084,940), and Kim (2005/0066479) teach the formation of a recess upon a door. Michael (3,545,061), Kezran (3,545,060), Knipple (1,629,667), Pataky (3,885,282), Weill (4,209,047), Jonsson (4,709,737), Larsson (6,146,061), Wing (2004/0010888), and Camarota (5,297,010) teach the inclusion of a supporting member on an attachable structure. Lindsay (6,834,692), Satran (6,536,996), Gearon (235,425), Trevarrow (3,629,919), and Eriksson (4,852,622) also teach the inclusion of a supporting member on an attachable structure.

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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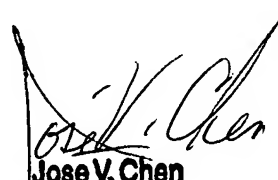
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MWI 
26 September 2006


Jose V. Chen
Primary Examiner